AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A process for preparation of ~~β-keta~~ β-keto aliphatic acid ester, which comprises growing a *Bacillus sp.* IICT 001 in growth medium for a period of at least 3-4 days to obtain broth, extracting the said broth with organic solvent, removing the solvent and purifying the β-keto aliphatic acid ester.

Claim 2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth medium used is selected from the group consisting of nutrient medium and mineral salts medium.

Claim 3. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth medium is supplemented with protein and carbon content selected from the group consisting of soyabean meal, corn steep liquor, casein, casein hydrolysate glucose and malt extract.

Claim 4. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth of strain is carried out at a temperature range of 20 to 40°C and a pH in the range of 4.5-7.5.

Claim 5. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for extraction of broth is a chlorinated organic solvent selected from the group consisting of chloroform, dichloromethane and dichloroethane.

Claim 6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for extraction of broth is ethyl acetate.

Claim 7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for extraction of broth is a polar solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol and a mixture thereof.

Claim 8. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the chromatographic method used comprises thin layer chromatography using silica gel as stationary phase and 1:1 methanol $CHCl^3$ as mobile phase, column chromatography, high pressure liquid chromatography.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Canceled)

We claim:

1. A process for preparation of β-keto aliphatic acid ester, which comprises growing a *Bacillus sp.* IICT 001 in growth medium for a period of at least 3-4 days to obtain broth, extracting the said broth with organic solvent, removing the solvent and purifying the β-keto aliphatic acid ester.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth medium used is selected from the group consisting of nutrient medium and mineral salts medium.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth medium is supplemented with protein and carbon content selected from the group consisting of soyabean meal, corn steep liquor, casein, casein hydrolysate glucose and malt extract.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth of strain is carried out at a temperature range of 20 to 40°C and a pH in the range of 4.5-7.5.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for extraction of broth is a chlorinated organic solvent selected from the group consisting of chloroform, dichloromethane and dichloroethane.
6. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for extraction of broth is ethyl acetate.
7. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for extraction of broth is a polar solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol and a mixture thereof.
8. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the chromatographic method used comprises thin layer chromatography using silica gel as stationary phase and 1:1 methanol $CHCl_3$ as mobile phase, column chromatography, high pressure liquid chromatography.
9. An antibiotic compound β-keto aliphatic acid ester isolated from *Bacillus sp.* IICT 001 and possessing the following spectral properties

   UV max (MeoH) : 225

   ^1H NMR $CDCI_3$(80 MH_2): 0.88 t (CH_3); 1.25 s, br (CH_2)n; 2.16s($COCH_2$);
   3.68 s($COOCH_3$) IR. V_{max}($CHCI^3$) : cm^{-1} 1730 (ester), 1670 (Carbonyl).
10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a β-keto aliphatic acid ester isolated from *Bacillus sp.* IICT 001 and possessing the following spectral properties

    UV max (MeoH) : 225

    ^1H NMR $CDCI_3$(80 MH_2): 0.88 t (CH_3); 1.25 s, br (CH_2)n; 2.16s($COCH_2$);
    3.68 s($COOCH_3$) IR. V_{max}($CHCI^3$) : cm^{-1} 1730 (ester), 1670 (Carbonyl)

    in admixture with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.